



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate.

January 28, 1931.

METHODS OF RAT PROOFING  
DESCRIBED IN NEW BULLETIN  
-----

Modern building principles and rat proofing go hand in hand, says a new Farmers' Bulletin on "Rat Proofing Buildings and Premises" just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. These principles call for the use of well-made concrete and steel, and other indestructible and noncombustible materials that are too much for even the sharpest of rodent incisors. They include also fire stopping in double walls and floors and the elimination of all dead spaces and dark corners where the rat can hide. The sanitary features provide for hygienic storage of food, and the rat can not live without something to eat.

All new buildings should be made rat proof, says the bulletin. Cities in growing numbers have added rat-proofing clauses to their building ordinances with such good effect that others are sure to follow their lead. Builders should therefore compare the cost of rat proofing during construction with the probable cost later, in case local laws should require that all buildings be made rat proof.

The cost of rat proofing all the construction on many American farms, the bulletin says, would amount to less than the loss occasioned by rats on the same farms in a single year. The pamphlet gives details and illustrates methods for rat proofing all kinds of farm structures, including barns,

corncribs, granaries, and poultry houses. It also considers the rat proofing of city buildings, such as warehouses and markets, and suggests city-wide efforts toward the suppression of the rat pest. It includes a model rat-proofing ordinance and an ordinance regulating the collection and disposal of garbage, prepared by the United States Public Health Service.

Throughout the bulletin it is emphasized that the removal of the rat's food and shelter offers a practical means of permanent rat control. "The number of rats on premises and the extent of their destructiveness are usually in direct proportion to the food available and to the shelter afforded. Rat proofing in the broadest sense embraces not only the exclusion of rats from buildings of all types but also the elimination of their hiding and nesting places and the starvation of the animals. Through open doors and in other ways, rats may frequently gain access to structures that are otherwise rat proof, but they can not persist there unless they find safe retreats and food. When rat proofing becomes the regular practice the rat problem will have been largely solved."

Copies of the new publication, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1638-F, may be obtained free on request addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

-----W-----